

NTUMUN 2021

# STUDY GUIDE



INTERNATIONAL  
PRESS CORPS



# INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS

## CHAIR INTRODUCTION

---

Aakriti Sehgal

(HEAD CHAIR OF PRESS CORPS)

Email: [aakriti.sehgal28@gmail.com](mailto:aakriti.sehgal28@gmail.com)

“Everyone, I’m your new Commanding Officer, Captain Ray Holt.”

- “Speech!”

“That was my speech.”

- “Short & sweet.”

*From Brooklyn Nine-Nine*

Aakriti Sehgal is a freshman studying Psychology at James Cook University, Singapore. In her free time, she enjoys reading, watching TV shows, talking to people, and spending a hopeless amount of time and money on pretty stationery. She loves to talk to people to get to know more about them, which is where her interest in journalism stems from; a love for stories.

Although she is passionate about her field of study, she has always taken a keen interest in reading and writing. This was the driver behind her journey from once agreeing with a fellow delegate who scoffed that the Press is not a real committee, to taking up the role of a Chair herself. NTUMUN 2021 will be her first chairing experience, and she looks forward to working with, and encouraging and supporting delegates in their journey over the course of this conference.

# THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS

## INTRODUCTION TO COUNCIL



The Press refers to the gathering and publishing or broadcasting of news through different media, including newspapers, periodicals, radio, and television broadcasts. It is often referred to as ‘The Fourth Estate’, because of its immense social influence through the advocating for, and framing of political issues.

In the context of an MUN conference, the Press plays a role in the information, education, and communication of ideas across or within the councils. At NTUMUN

2021, the Press Corps will consist of five agencies, carefully picked ensuring the representation of a wide range of cultural and political perspectives, and keeping in mind the quality and credibility of the information communicated.

All in all, we aspire to inspire the group of budding journalists joining NTUMUN 2021’s Press Corps to unlock their true potential by honing their reporting skills over the 3-day conference.

## THE AGENCIES

### SUMMARY

#### **Washington Post**

The Washington Post, colloquially referred to as WaPo, is a daily newspaper based in Washington D.C., USA. Founded in 1877, it has since been owned by Democratic and Republican state

representatives. Under its current owner, Jeff Bezos, the founder of Amazon, WaPo generally portrays a left-centre bias, with generally factual reporting.

## **Chicago Tribune**

The Chicago Tribune was founded in 1847, in Chicago, Illinois, USA. It is privately owned by the Tribune Publishing Company, which also operates several newspapers across the USA. The agency leans towards conservative and libertarian ideologies, reflecting its Midwestern cultural background, and has generally highly factual reporting.

## **Channel NewsAsia**

Channel NewsAsia (CNA) is an English-language based news channel founded in Singapore in 1999. It positions itself as an alternative to Western media, by offering “an Asian perspective”. The agency is owned and operated by the Mediacorp Group, which is Singapore’s national public broadcaster. It is generally a low-biased and credible source.

## **Al Jazeera**

Al Jazeera is an international news network, founded in 1996 in Doha, Qatar. It is owned by the Qatar Media Corporation. The agency portrays a slight bias towards Qatar’s policies in its reporting and leans towards a left-centre stance when reporting world politics. It generally provides factual information, although it has failed several fact checks in its past.

## **Agence France Presse**

Agence France-Presse (AFP), founded in 1835 and headquartered in Paris, France is an international news agency. It is partially funded by the French government, however most of its reporting tends to be neutrally worded, with minimal bias. It has never failed a fact check; in fact, the agency can be considered a credible fact checker itself.

## **PRESS ARTICLE TOOLKIT - A CRASH COURSE**

The purpose of a newspaper article is to convey information objectively. It consists of factual details of an event for the readers to make their opinions on, with objective, detached language (hence the term, ‘reporting’). It allows readers to form their opinions on a given socio-political matter, and can thus shape the future of a nation. For this reason, a general structure is followed to ensure that all the components of good and responsible reporting are present in an article. The following list is a general guideline for the components of a news article.

## Structure of a News Article

- **Headline:** The headline precedes the rest of your article. It is a short, eye-catching summary of the article that draws the readers to it.
- **Byline:** This is the name of the author of the article
- **Location:** This is the location of the unfolding events. This is important as it can provide context before an issue or incident is reported. In the case of NTUMUN 2021, the location would be the council that you are reporting from.
- **Introduction:** The introduction provides a simple overview of the events that you are covering. Simply put, try to cover the who, what, when, why, and how of the event.
- **Details of the event:** In these subsequent paragraphs, you are required to elaborate on and provide details regarding the event that has occurred, using the 5 'W's and 1 'H' in your introduction as a base for this. Try to be as thorough and clear as possible in this section.
- **Wrapping up:** This will be the conclusion of your report. Since you should not put forth your opinions in a news article, this section will cover possible future prospects, or how these events might unfold in the future, to provide a neat closing to the exhaustive report.

Do keep in mind that the article does not need to have the aforementioned subheadings - you are free to come up with your own!

## TYPES OF ARTICLES

---

In the real world, the press engages with their audience in various ways, by publishing different types of articles, with different purposes. Here are a few examples of articles that we hope you can be inspired by at this MUN:

1. **News Reports:** These articles inform readers about things that are happening in the world or in the local area. They are typically full of facts, like names, dates and places, as well as different points of view. Reports

tend to have a more formal, neutral tone.

2. **Feature articles:** These articles explore issues raised by news stories in more depth. A feature article tends to be more opinionated and less formal than a report, often taking a personal point of view.
3. **Editorials, columns and opinion pieces:** These are pieces by 'personality' writers, often celebrities in other fields. They might be there to inform or to entertain. They can be written in a particular style, polemical or sarcastic. This can be achieved through vocabulary choices and rhetorical devices, using relatively informal language to convey their idiolect, etc. to appeal to their audience.

(Adapted from <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z2t3rdm/revision/6>)

Regardless of the type of article, the standard conventions and structure of a newspaper article will still be helpful!

## FAQ ON PRESS EXPECTATIONS

---

### What can I publish?

Here at the International Press Corps, we accept all media of reporting, including videos and pictures (although some may not be feasible because of COVID-19 restrictions, we encourage you to get creative!). You will have opportunities of microblogging through platforms like Twitter, using which delegates can keep in touch with their target audience, providing them with more updates including photographs. Keep in mind that if you choose to report using other media, you will be marked based on the structure and writing conventions of the chosen medium. As such, you will need to pay attention to the details of your reporting.

### How often can I publish?

Considering the fact that the flow of discussion within committees can vary greatly over the course of the day, we do not expect you to submit a fixed number of articles. However, we do require you to submit at least three articles over the course of the conference, with at least one article each day.



### **What is expected of me?**

We expect you to write articles of a high standard, in a clear, concise manner, while conveying the important information. You need to do this while following the conventions and structure of an article (Section IV).

You are reminded to not include your personal opinions or biases in the article. Since agencies have well-known and inevitable biases in real life, do ensure that you adapt to the voice, style, and bias of the agency that you are a part of; make this especially clear, as this is one of the major criteria that you will be marked on.

This may seem daunting, but the chairs will be available to guide you in case of any questions!

## **INTRODUCTION TO PRESS CONFERENCES**

Press conferences are media events where members of the press are invited to speak but most importantly, to ask questions. Most big events ranging from sports leagues to product launches and even UN gatherings involve elaborate press conference sessions. In general, we find that press conferences are an exciting method to hook an audience, since it is by default, a way to gather information. However, the quality and style of questioning followed in a press conference can draw in closer attention from the audience. In the context of a MUN conference, most committees will look forward to a Press conference to 'grill' soft-spoken delegates, or delegates that have made claims during the committee sessions that necessitate further questioning.

There is by no means a set method to plan or conduct a press conference, but here are some tips and guidance from our side:

- Thorough research is essential in conducting a successful press conference. It is necessary for delegates to be well informed of the stance of the press agency they are representing, the aims and agenda of the committee they will be holding the conference in and the delegations they will be focusing on.
- Be sure to use varied sources in planning for a press conference. Along with information from global media, if possible, try to keep a watchful eye on the happenings of the committee that you are hoping to hold a conference in. This way, you will know first-hand which delegations to interview and which matters to bring up.

- Do keep in mind the length of the press conference while deciding the questions to ask. If the conference lasts too long, the audience or even the committee (!) may lose attention and the impact will be lost. In our experience, target for a 10 to 12 minute conference but not beyond the 15-minute-mark.
- Remember that this is the main area of the press delegate's range of responsibilities that will require good public speaking skills, and we believe that the press conference is an excellent opportunity to sharpen them. Maintain your confidence throughout!

## AWARDS AND THEIR CRITERIA

Generally speaking, articles will be evaluated based on the structure, command of language and efficacy in portraying the assigned press agency. Based on this general criteria, there are four awards available for delegates.

### **Best Pre-conference Press Article:**

This is awarded to the press delegate with the best composed pre-conference press release (position paper). We will be judging the submissions following the standard criteria for a press article, as detailed above. We will also be considering informedness, and the level to which delegates are able to fit the stance of the agency they are delegated to.

### **Best Press Delegate**

This award will be handed out to the delegate who presents the most promising work through the course of the conference. In our judgement, we will of course be considering individual pieces published by the

delegate, but we will also look out for the entire body of work produced during the conference.

### **Best Press Piece**

We will be perusing through all the pieces produced by delegates during the three days of the conference in order to award the Best Press Piece award. In particular, we will be looking for a piece that sets the standard for NTUMUN's Press Corps as a comprehensive and well-composed piece of writing.

### **Best Press Conference**

Carrying out press conferences is an integral role played by the Press Corps at any MUN. This is an award handed to the agency that conducts the most well planned and effective press conference at NTUMUN. We will be specifically looking for a conference that is exciting to hear and watch, and achieves the goals it sets out for.



In most MUN conferences, delegates in regular committees are tasked with producing position papers prior to the conference. Delegates are expected to familiarise themselves with the stance of the delegation they are representing and carry out appropriate research to write the paper. As such, we think this is a great way to inculcate research, organisation and presentation skills; but more importantly, it can help the dais gain familiarity with the delegates and their styles of writing before the conference commences.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions still in place, we will be shifting NTUMUN 2021 completely online, which will undoubtedly affect our ability to interact with you, our dear press delegates one-on-one. However, to account for this gap, we are requiring press delegates to produce and submit a pre-event press release, in lieu of a position paper.

For this press release, delegates are required to write an article between 300-450 words about an issue of their choice pertaining to Asia in the 2010s. Delegates are free to choose either an event or an ongoing issue faced by the people of an Asian country, but do keep in mind that the chosen topic has to be focused. You are expected to follow the general structure of an article, and to exhibit the bias, style, and language of the news agency you are assigned to.

Title your documents in **this format**: [Agency Name]\_[Delegate Name]\_PRESS, e.g. Al Jazeera\_XYZ\_PRESS. Email the document in **PDF format** to the NTUMUN USG Press email: [ayush.grover@ntumun.com](mailto:ayush.grover@ntumun.com)

All Position Papers should be submitted by **5 March 2021, Friday**, for delegates under the Early Bird and Regular registration classifications. Any requests for extension should be made at least three (3) days before the deadline. Late or non-submission of Position Papers may affect award decisions.

## ETHICS OF REPORTING

---

### Plagiarism

As a responsible member of the Press Corps, we expect you to show integrity in all forms of work that you partake in and submit to us. As such, we require that all the work submitted by you is accurate, to your best knowledge, and that it is your own work, and that any material used from other sources is credited. Any and all cases of suspected plagiarism will be dealt with by the relevant

authorities at the NTUMUN, and may result in the nullification of your participation.

**Incitement of violence**

Please ensure to not employ offensive or inflammatory language to either intentionally, or unintentionally incite violence when conveying your ideas. Since the conference is affiliated with NTU, Singapore, the rules of the institution will apply to any cases of attempt to incite violence.

**CONCLUSION**

Thank you for taking the time to familiarise yourself with the study guide; we promise that your efforts will not go in vain. We look forward to working with you over the course of the conference, and we will be here to help you to our best abilities.